Bug 988959 - [UX] Breakdown: Favicons for all about pages
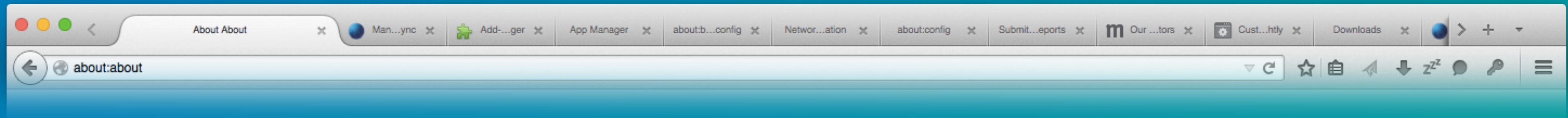
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Problem

Firefox contains a collection of Easter eggs, diagnostic information and configuration settings which can be accessed through a number of hidden about: pages.

Most of these pages, however, do not have an associated favicon, which leaves the tab the page is open in looking a little empty. And since these are important administrative pages for the browser, the favicon make them look a bit more "official".

In addition to the lack of favicons, there is also no consistency regarding whether about: pages have a title, and there should be an additional indicator to the user that the about: page is part of the browser.

List of About: Pages

Items in yellow have existing favicons:

about:
about:about
about:accounts
about:addons
about:app-manager
about:buildconfig
about:cache
about:config
about:crashes
about:credits
about:customizing
about:downloads

about:healthreport
about:home
about:license
about:logo
about:memory
about:mozilla
about:networking
about:newtab
about:permissions
about:plugins
about:preferences
about:privatebrowsing

about:rights
about:robots
about:sessionrestore
about:support
about:sync-log
about:sync-progress
about:sync-tabs
about:telemetry
about:webrtc
about:welcomeback

mozilla

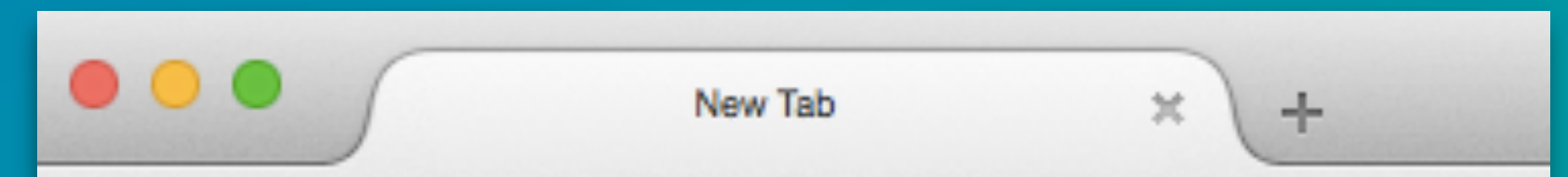# Rule #1: All about: pages must have a favicon

For all about: pages that do not already have an existing favicon, it is recommended we use the browser logo as a favicon). The following about: pages require a generic favicon:

about:
about:about
about:buildconfig
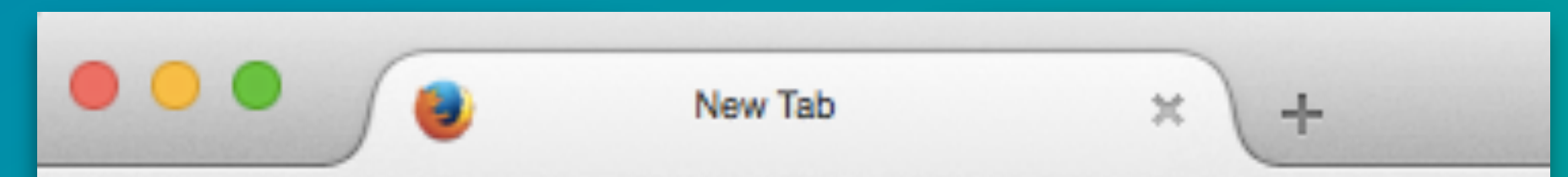about:cache
about:config
about:crashes
about:license

about:memory
about:mozilla
about:networking
about:permissions
about:rights
about:telemetry
about:webrtc

Note: about:newtab is the only about: page that does not require a favicon as this represents the purpose of the newtab page being a fresh, clean jumping off point for users to begin a browsing session.
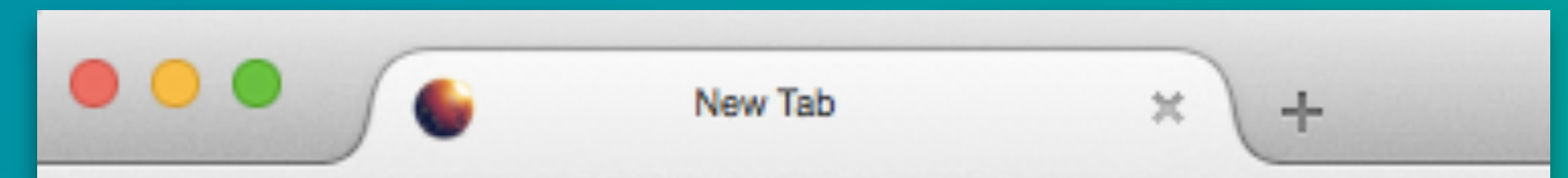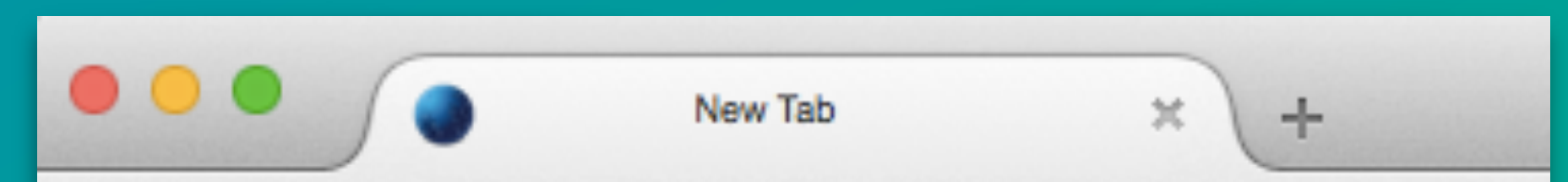
Current State

Release/Beta

Aurora

Nightly

Rule #2: If a page has an existing icon, that should be the favicon

Some about: pages already have associated icons in the UI. In these cases a custom matching favicon should be used instead of the generic browser logo. The following pages require custom favicons.

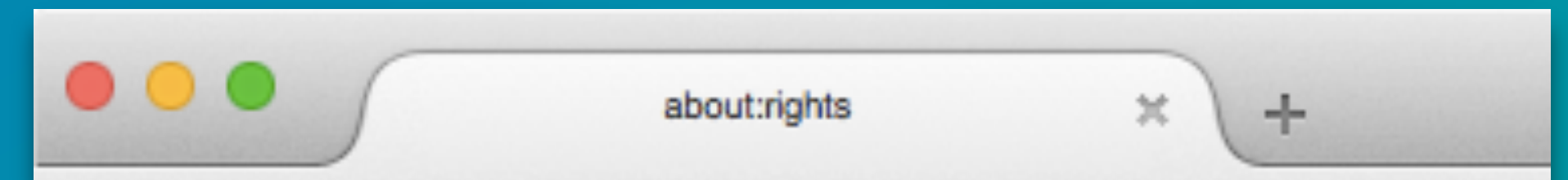|		
about:accounts	»	Custom Favicon: Sync icon
about:app-manager	»	Custom Favicon: Rocket ship
about:downloads	»	Custom Favicon: Download arrow
about:plugins	»	Custom Favicon: Lego piece

mozilla

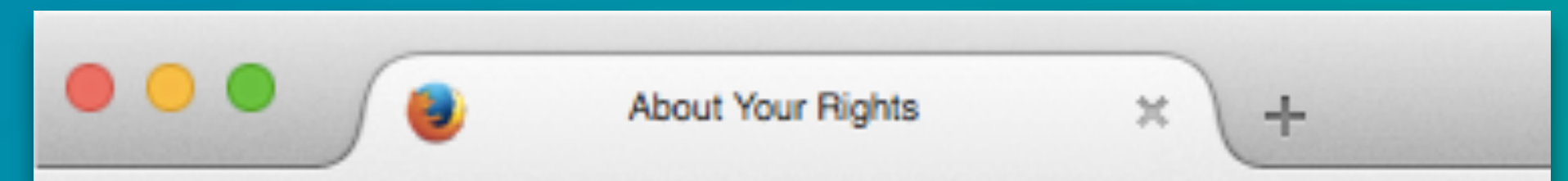# Rule #3: All about: pages must have a page title

The following about: pages do not have page titles. Suggested titles are included.

about:	»	About Firefox*
about:buildconfig	»	Build Config
about:config	»	Configuration
about:license	»	Licenses
about:memory	»	Memory
about:plugins	»	Plugins
about:privatebrowsing	»	Start Private Browsing
about:rights	»	About Your Rights
about:sync–log	»	Sync Log
about:webrtc	»	WebRTC

Before:

about:rights
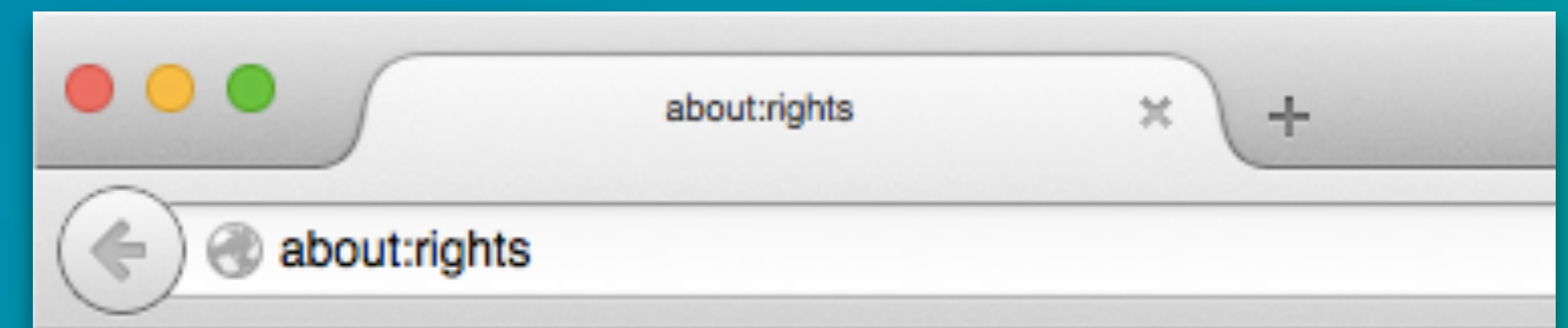
After:

About Your Rights

* or Aurora, or Nightly.

Rule #4: All about: pages must use an identity block

Some of the about: pages use an identity block to show the user that the page they are on is a trusted part of the browser. The following about: pages do not use an identity block (but should!):
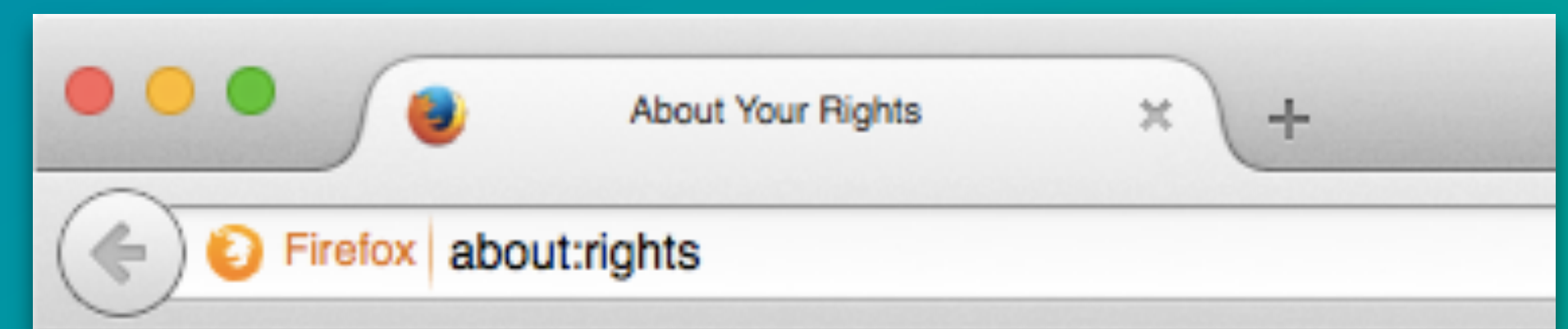
about:
about:about
about:buildconfig
about:cache
about:downloads
about:license
about:logo
about:memory
about:mozilla
about:networking

about:newtab
about:plugins
about:rights
about:robots
about:sync-log
about:sync-progress
about:sync-tabs
about:telemetry
about:webrtc

Before:

After:

Rule #5: All favicons should look like they're from the same family

Currently there is a mishmash of styles used for the favicon on the about: pages, and some of the pages require updated icons to conform the pages to the same style. The following list of pages require updated icons.

about:addons   (The puzzle piece is backwards, compared to other uses of it in the browser.)
about:preferences   (The gear does not match the gears used elsewhere in the browser.)
about:sync-log   (Should use the flatter style sync icon seen in customize mode.)
about:sync-progress   (Should use the flatter style sync icon seen in customize mode.)
about:sync-tabs   (Should use the flatter style sync icon seen in customize mode.)

Additional Notes

- about:logo appears to just be an image (which is used as the favicon). As such it does not require a title or custom favicon. However, since it is an official about: page, it should still have an identity block.

- Many of the about: pages could do with a visual update to conform them to a standard look and feel (Project Chameleon), and in comes cases special attention needs to be paid to making pages more user-friendly and readable (e.g. about:networking, about:plugins, about:support).

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Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

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